ABSTRACT

A method and device for injecting a liquid sample into an electrolyte channel in a microfluidics device is disclosed. The device has a channel network that includes an electrolyte channel having upstream and downstream channel portions and first, second, and third side channels that intersect the electrolyte channel between the two channel portions at first, second, and third ports, respectively. In the method, a sample is moved electrokinetically into the electrolyte channel, to form a defined sample volume therein. By simultaneously controlling the voltage applied to the three side channels, and at least one of the upstream and downstream channel end portions, the sample volume element can be shaped to have a desired leading- and trailing-edge shape and/or distribution of sample components within the volume elements.